

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 15321 290720Z

21

ACTION INT-05

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8549

UNCLAS BANGKOK 15321

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, TH

SUBJ: STATUS REVIEW: LEOPARD AND CLOUDED LEOPARD

1. IN RESPONSE TO YOUR AIRGRAM OF MAY 15, WE CONTACTED THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION DIVISION OF THE THAI GOVERNMENT FOR THEIR VIEWS ON PROTECTED STATUS FOR THE LEOPARD AND CLOUDED LEOPARD.

2. IN ITS REPLY THE THAI GOVERNMENT STRONGLY URGES THAT THE LEOPARD BE CONTINUED TO BE CLASSIFIED AS AN ENDANGERED SPECIES

AND THAT THE CLOUDED LEOPARD SHOULD BE ADDED TO THE LIST OF ENDANGERED SPECIES. TRAPPING, HUNTING, TRADING AND EXPORTING OF THESE TWO SPECIES AND THEIR PRODUCTS IS PROHIBITED IN THAILAND. LEOPARD POPULATION IN THAILAND HAVE BEEN DECLINING PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF HABITAT DESTRUCTION AND POACHING FOR SKINS. KITTENS ARE SOUGHT AFTER AS PET AND ZOO EXHIBITS. IN 1974, THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION DIVISION ARRESTED SEVERAL FUR DEALERS AND CONFISCATED TIGER AND LEOPARD SKINS WORTH APPROXIMATELY 2,000,000 BAHT, ALL WAITING TO BE SMUGGLED ABROAD OR SOLD TO TOURISTS. THE THAI ROYAL FOREST DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN SEEKING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO BAN THE IMPORT EXPORT OF ALL BIG CAT SKINS WHICH WE BELIEVE WILL HELP CUT DOWN THE ILLEGAL TRAPPING AND POACHING IN THIS COUNTRY.

3. SINCE RESPONSE REACHED US LATE, WE ARE ANSWERING TELEGRAPHICALLY.

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WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

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